

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 21 and 22 are amended.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they render explicit what was implicit in the claims and support the arguments made in the Amendment filed October 16, 2003.

In section 3 on pages 1-2, the Office Action indicates that claims 1-20 are allowed.

In section 2 on page 1, the Office Action rejects claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Okuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,380,689). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 21 and 22 are amended to more clearly incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 1-20.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection claims 21 and 22 as being anticipated by Okuda be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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